
TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

Minutes of: Governing Body Special Meeting
Date of Meeting: April 29, 2019
Time of Meeting: 6:30 pm
Minute Page No: Page 1 of 2

The Special Meeting of the Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Michele Dale.

Adequate Notice Statement

Mayor Dale read the following statement:

Please note that in accordance with Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975 of New Jersey, adequate advance notice of this Special Meeting was advertised in the Herald News in its issue of April 21, 2019; copies were provided to the Suburban Trends, the Record and Star Ledger and posted continuously on the bulletin board in the main corridor of the Town Hall and on file in the Office of the Township Clerk.

Please also make note of all fire and emergency exits - located to the left, right, front and rear of this room - for use in case of an emergency. Thank you.

Agenda No. I

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dale led all in attendance in a salute to the flag.

Agenda No. II

Roll Call

Present: Councilmembers Ada Erik, Andrena Pegel, Marilyn Lichtenberg, Peter McGuinness
(arrived 6:34) Luciano Signorino, Patricia Gerst, Mayor Michele Dale
Absent: None
Also Present: None

Agenda No. III

Purpose

2019 Municipal Budget

Agenda No. IV

Review of 2019 Municipal Budget

Councilman Signorino expressed that Bubbling Springs registrations have decreased and it needs an attraction. He is interested in the water slide that John Voli proposed. He said there has been a decrease in participation. Councilwoman Pegel said she agrees with Councilman Signorino. She said a lot of families are looking for extra activities at the lake. The small amount of memberships needed to warrant the expense is justifiable. Mr. Voli noted that the cost is \$25,000 and additional pieces can be added in the future. He mentioned that he provided pictures to the Governing Body. Councilwoman Lichtenberg asked Mr. Voli if the enrollment at Bubbling Springs is down from last year. Mr. Voli said yes. Mayor Dale noted that the day camp enrollment is down significantly.

Councilman Signorino made a motion to add the water feature to Bubbling Springs, seconded by Councilwoman Gerst. Mr. Casey noted that both funds are over tapped so the Council needs to decide which fund they want the money to come out of. They don't want to bring in to the budget more than they regenerate. Councilman Signorino said he would like the funds to come out of the operating budget.

Moved: Signorino Seconded: Gerst
Voted Aye: Erik, Pegel, Lichtenberg, Signorino, Gerst
Voted Nay: McGuinness
Motion Carried:

Councilwoman Erik said they cut the capital budget as much as they possibly can. She made a motion to move the capital budget as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Lichtenberg.

Moved: Erik Seconded: Lichtenberg
Voted Aye: Erik, Lichtenberg, McGuinness, Signorino, Gerst
Voted Nay: Pegel
Motion Carried:

Mayor Dale expressed that every time they don't fund something the long term effect to the municipality is larger increases. The need to formulate a plan that will not create large tax increases down the road. They can't continue to do things that were done twenty years ago. Councilman Signorino said he is fine with using surplus to offset the tax increase. Councilman McGuinness said he would like to see the numbers with the new employee in the Recreation Department.

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Councilman Signorino asked the proposed cost for the additional DPW employees. Mr. Casey said the cost is \$170,000 plus pension and benefits for three employees. Mr. Steines said he asked for five new employees but he will take three. Councilman McGuinness asked for the three new employees to be included in the budget so he can see the final number. Councilwoman Erik asked about the police cars. Mr. Casey said they included five. Councilwoman Lichtenberg said they should add two or three more police cars on top of the five that are in the budget. Councilman Signorino said he would like to see additional DPW employees instead of the police vehicles.

Councilwoman Pegel and Councilwoman Gerst want to add the additional IT employee request back in to the budget to see what the numbers look like. Ms. Mageean noted the salaries would be \$187,000 for the additional employees. Councilman McGuinness expressed that he wants to wait for the school budget before he makes a decision. Mr. Casey said they are two months behind the State schedule and they have to introduce the budget by May 20th. They can always make changes. The Council agreed to wait until the school finalizes their budget. Councilman Signorino requested an updated spread sheet reflecting the changes they just made. Mr. Casey asked when the want to meet again to resolve it all. He suggested a special meeting on Monday, May 13th. The Council agreed to have a special meeting on May 13th at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Dale noted that Administration will follow up with the Council regarding the special meeting on Monday, May 13th.

Agenda No. V

Public Comments

Mayor Dale opened the meeting to the public after advising that there is a five-minute limit for each speaker.

There being no one wishing to be heard, Councilwoman Erik moved to close the public portion of the meeting.

Moved: Erik Seconded: Lichtenberg
Voted Aye: Unanimous voice vote
Voted Nay: None
Motion carried.

Mrs. Mageean explained that before they spend money for a grant, they have to recognize it in the budget. Since they don't have the budget adopted yet, they have to do the emergency appropriation. This will not increase the budget. They are not prefunding the grant; they are just acknowledging it in the budget so they can spend the money. Mrs. Mageean noted that in the Council's next packet there will be a resolution to do estimated tax billing, which has not been done in the past. Normally they wait for the tax rate. She expressed that it is getting later and later that they are receiving the tax rate. If the tax bills get sent out late people tend to pay later. It is a cash flow problem for the Township because they still have to pay the school and the County regardless of whether or not they collect the taxes. The Tax Collector does her own billing, so the biggest expense they would have is \$6,000 for postage for the estimated tax billing. Mr. Casey mentioned that they lost 30 days' worth of interest generation of \$25 million dollars.

Agenda No. VI

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Governing Body adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Moved: Signorino Seconded: McGuinness
Voted Aye: Unanimous voice vote
Voted Nay: None
Motion carried.

Approved: May 22, 2019

Respectfully submitted:

Sherry Zbrzeski, Keyboarding Clerk I

MICHELE DALE, MAYOR

ANTOINETTE BATTAGLIA, TOWNSHIP CLERK